

HELPFUL RESOURCES

JOB RESOURCES

▶ CTWORKS CAREER CENTERS

A regional Career Center is located on Main Street in Manchester to provide guidance and services to those seeking employment. 860-643-2222



FOR SENIORS

▶ CHOICES PROGRAM

The CHOICES Program provides information to persons age 60 and older. Currently, CHOICES is assisting seniors who need help enrolling in Medicare Part D. 1-800-994-9422

▶ MEDICARE SAVINGS PROGRAMS (MSP)

Individuals who are enrolled in both Medicare and ConnPACE are no longer able to access ConnPACE benefits. Instead, those eligible for Medicare should apply to the Medicare Savings Program (MSP) in order to receive prescription drug assistance. There is no asset test for this program, and the income limits are the same as those for ConnPACE.

MSP offers eligible seniors savings of at least \$1,000 per year in Medicare Part B premiums. The Medicare Part D Low-Income Subsidy would lower prescription co-payments to \$6.30 or less. For information call Infoline at 211, or CHOICES at 1-800-994-9422 or visit www.ct.gov/dss/medicaresavingsprograms.



ENERGY ASSISTANCE & CONSERVATION

▶ SAVE ON YOUR ELECTRIC BILL

Choose Your Electric Supplier—The rate you pay for the generation portion of your electric bill may be lowered by ten percent. 1-877-947-3873 or www.ctenergyinfo.com

The Home Energy Solutions—Income Eligible (HES-IE) helps income-eligible customers reduce their bills by making their homes more energy-efficient. They also provide energy audits for a subsidized fee of \$75. 1-877-947-3873

The **Matching Payment Program** provides year-round electric service and possible forgiveness of back balances to low-income electric heating customers. 1-800-286-2828



FOR VETERANS

▶ COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS

The Connecticut General Assembly's Select Committee on Veterans' Affairs advocates for active-duty military personnel, veterans and military families. 860-240-8467

▶ THE CONNECTICUT SOLDIERS', SAILORS' & MARINES' FUND

This fund provides temporary assistance to veterans and their families for needs including home heating assistance, help with rental payments and medical and dental expenses. www.ct.gov/ssmf or 1-800-491-4941



Dear Neighbor:

These are unprecedented times: families are struggling, yet gridlock in Washington ensures that Congress gets nothing done. It's a different story in Connecticut; we put partisan differences aside and passed an historic Jobs Bill. The legislation will help create thousands of jobs by reducing red tape, cutting taxes for small businesses and investing in training and education.

Together, we're working to strengthen Connecticut's economy, balance the budget and show Washington that cooperation doesn't have to be a bad word.

This newsletter details some of the initiatives we've taken to help our economy and improve your quality of life. Please don't hesitate to contact my office with any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Steve Cassano
State Senator

Stay Informed in a "Green" Way



Sign-up to receive my e-mail newsletter. It's a paperless way for me to communicate with my constituents about timely issues that impact our communities and our state. To sign up, visit: www.SenatorCassano.cga.ct.gov



What's happening at the State Capitol and around the state? Follow us on Facebook, Twitter and Flickr to find out.
www.facebook.com/CTSenateDemocrats
twitter.com/CTSenateDems
www.flickr.com/ctsenatedems



FPO
FPO
FPO
FPO
FPO
FPO

Please share or recycle when done with this mailer.

PRST STD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
HARTFORD CT
PERMIT NO. 3937



Fighting for Jobs & the Economy

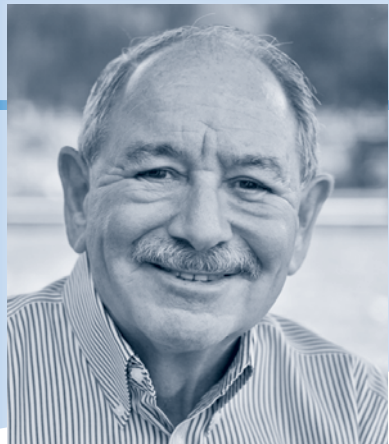
State Senator

Steve Cassano

Legislative Office Building, Room 2100
Hartford, CT 06106-1591
www.SenatorCassano.cga.ct.gov
860-240-5302

Representing
Bolton,
Glastonbury,
Manchester
& Marlborough

WINTER 2011



STATE SENATOR **Steve Cassano**

Serving Bolton, Glastonbury, Manchester & Marlborough

WINTER 2011

LEGISLATIVE SUCCESS

Insuring MRIs to Fight Breast Cancer

We've stepped up the fight against breast cancer by passing a law requiring certain insurance companies to pay for magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) for breast cancer screening when a woman has what's called 'dense' breast tissue. A typical mammogram may not reliably detect breast cancer tumors in such tissue. The new law also requires MRI coverage if a woman is at increased risk for breast cancer due to family history or prior personal history.



Cracking Down on Online Bullying



Bullying has become a national concern, leading in the worst cases to bullied students committing suicide. Connecticut already has a strong anti-bullying law, but we reinforced it this year with two key provisions: we've added electronic "cyberbullying" to the list of prohibited activities, and we've expanded the number of mandatory

school reporters and the responsibilities of school districts to include bullying incidents that occur off school grounds. Bullying has expanded into the electronic world of social media, and Connecticut is keeping pace in protecting its younger citizens.

Improving Early Childhood Education

Getting our children off to a strong start early on in their education provides benefits that will stay with them for the rest of their lives. We passed legislation to create a coordinated system of early care education and child development to address the needs of children from birth to age 8 (changes take effect in 2013.) The plan will focus on developing oral language and social skills, as well as on closing the achievement gap, improving participation in early childhood programs and increasing parent engagement.



GROWING JOBS



I recently joined 75 business people at Rentschler Field in East Hartford as they were briefed on the details of our new Jobs Bill. On the left is Dept. of Economic & Community Development Commissioner Catherine Smith.

Jobs are the number one issue facing Connecticut today. We took action in the legislature this year to put more people back to work and get our economy growing again. Unlike the partisan gridlock in Washington, both parties came together in Hartford to pass a Jobs Bill of common-sense improvements. We focused on small businesses, **cut the business entity tax in half** and **streamlined state regulations**.

Other highlights of the bill include:

- ▶ **Helping small businesses with hiring**—We established a monthly hiring tax credit that increases when businesses hire unemployed, disabled or veteran workers. We also made it easier for businesses to hire new workers for on-the-job training.
- ▶ **Investing in start-ups**—At a time when many banks aren't lending, we invested in new start-up companies by building business incubators and expanding the angel investor tax credit.
- ▶ **Building a workforce of the future**—We will recruit students for vo-tech, agri-science and tech education by promoting their benefits with middle-school parents and local boards of education. We are also seeking to expand the manufacturing technology program at Manchester Community College.
- ▶ **Investing in infrastructure**—We paved the way for economic development zones at Connecticut's general aviation airports, allocated funds for shovel-ready bridge projects and passed major reforms to lower energy costs and increase energy efficiency.

In separate legislation, we approved funding to rebuild the UConn Health Center, attracting bioscience leader Jackson Laboratories to build a \$1.1 billion research facility nearby. This will create 900 construction positions and up to 6,000 long-term jobs.

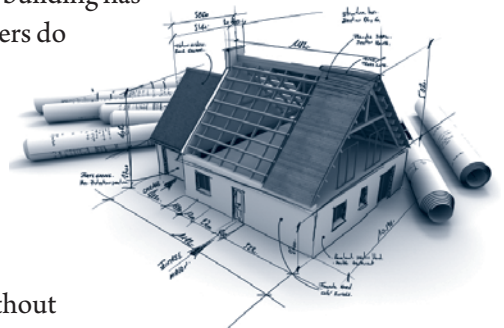
The national economy remains tough, but we took big steps this year to get Connecticut growing again.



FOR OUR STATE & OUR COMMUNITY

Cutting the Red Tape in Construction

Since the global recession, new home-building has slowed to a crawl. So what do developers do when they have a new home site approved, and the clock is ticking on the permit? Before, they were out of luck. But we listened to homebuilders' concerns and are now allowing developers more time to complete certain ongoing projects without seeking permit re-approvals from land use commissions or inland wetlands agencies.



Helping Veterans Prove Their Service

We passed a law allowing the state DMV to include a veteran's status on his or



I had the pleasure of meeting Stanley Brown of Manchester, one of thousands of U.S. Armed Forces veterans who attended the "Stand Down 2011" event at the Connecticut Veterans Home in Rocky Hill in September.

her state driver's license or identity card. Both of these IDs are routinely carried everywhere and widely recognized as official, thereby helping veterans secure the cost-saving benefits they are rightly entitled to. We also extended free, lifetime passes to state parks, forests and other recreational facilities to any Connecticut resident who is a disabled wartime veteran.



Learning From Two Extreme Storms

Connecticut was hit hard with two extreme storms nine weeks apart. In both instances hundreds of thousands of households lost power, most for several days, and many for more than a week. The large number of lengthy outages across the state, primarily in CL&P coverage areas, has led to many questions about this utility's ability to prepare for and manage these drastic situations. CL&P is now under heavy scrutiny and action will be taken by the legislature to address its failure. In a series of post-storm hearings, we listened to suggestions from the public and local officials based on their experiences. We crafted their ideas into recommendations that have now been shared with the governor's Two Storm Panel.

